

MEMORANDUM

May 15th, 2015

TO: ACEC-INDOT Bridge Inspection Committee Members

FROM: Cheryl Folz, Lochmueller Group

RE: ACEC-INDOT Bridge Inspection Committee Meeting Minutes

The following were in attendance:

Merril Dougherty, INDOT
Keith Hoernschemeyer, FHWA
Bobby Chandler, Clark Dietz
John Lukac, BLN

Bill Dittrich, INDOT
Adam Post, United
Jon Olson, BF&S
Cheryl Folz, Lochmueller Group

Item #1

Training Update.

FHWA Element Level Class - INDOT & FHWA are trying to schedule for this year.

NHI Courses:

- 2 week Bridge Inspection class will be offered this fall.
- 3 day Refresher Class - INDOT is gauging interest, and will send out notifications through ACEC. Possibly schedule late summer/early fall 2015.
- Scour at Highway Bridges- late fall/early winter 2015.
- Fracture Critical Class - 2016, possibly multiple sessions; possibly in conjunction with Purdue fatigue class.

Item #2

Update on Load Rating Review. INDOT has changed the load rating policy to conform to FHWA requirements. In addition to posting bridges with H ratings less than 16 tons, bridges now have to be posted if the HS operating rating is less than 36 ton. Bridges will continue to be posted for H rating. Postings should be in place by June 30, 2015, however INDOT is looking into the time required for new signs to be made. A memo will come out soon.

A research paper has been prepared on load ratings for INDOT, looking into if a different load rating vehicle should be used to better represent legal trucks.

Item #3

Scour Assessment. Keith has done research on scour assessments, using previous INDOT guidance criteria and policies from Iowa DOT, Illinois DOT and Minnesota DOT. He has prepared a draft scour screening and assessment procedure with the goal of standardizing the documentation and coding for structures in Indiana. He presented the draft procedure, asking that it be reviewed and that it be tried out on a few bridges to see how it works. Keith would appreciate any thoughts or comments by May 29. A meeting will be planned for around that time to further discuss the scour assessment procedure. The goal is to have a policy sent out to all inspectors in July 2015. Once the policy is in place, every bridge will be screened, and if bridges do not pass the screening, the full assessment will need to be done. It is intended that this screening/assessment be done in the next

routine bridge inspection cycle. There will then be 'trigger items' to watch for in future inspections. If a trigger item is identified for a bridge, it will need to be reassessed. A copy of the draft scour assessment is attached to these minutes.

Item #4

Need Increase Documentation. INDOT and FHWA have noticed that additional documentation is needed to support condition ratings. In addition to the ability to provide more documentation in the new BIAS, INDOT and FHWA have asked that field sketches be included in the bridge inspection file. Guidance will be given for when sketches are expected. In bridge photos, it was also noted the importance of including an item (like a pencil) to show scale.

At this time, the Sketch button in the new BIAS does not let you attach sketches. Sketches may need to be attached as Other. The Sketch button may only accept .jpg files.

Keith recommended that guidance be given to bridge inspectors on how long to keep the field notes.

Item #5

Bridge Deficiencies. Documentation of bridge deficiencies has improved. When repairs have been made, it is important to close the critical finding and notify Merrill. INDOT is working on adding these deficiency reports to BIAS so they can be more easily tracked. When documenting a critical finding, give the County a timeframe in order to give urgency to the maintenance/closure.

Item #6

BIAS Update and Access. Most issues with BIAS have been worked out, and it appears to be working well. INDOT is working with Bentley on Version 7.4, which should be out at the end of this year. Version 7.4 is not a drastic change from the previous version, but it will add an asset type for small structures.

Inspectors need to make sure to use the dashboards in BIAS as this is INDOT's method to communicate. INDOT will try to make sure to notify consultants when changes are made, for example when access for a County is given or taken from a consultant.

Some new bridges are not being added to BIAS. SPMS was not set up to do this. INDOT is working on this issue.

Item #7

Completing Reports in 60 Days. Bridge inspection reports have to be approved within 60 days of the inspection. Load ratings are considered separate and can be added after the report is approved. A policy will be put into place to give guidance on when the load rating has to be complete.

Item #8

ERMS Storage Plan. INDOT is continuing to work on using ERMS to store bridge files. They will test it this summer with asbestos reports. It is not ready yet.

Item #9

Other Topics.

Border Bridges - Keith stated that FHWA is currently working with Illinois and Lake County to develop an agreement on border bridges. This agreement will define who is responsible for the inspection, inventorying, posting and maintenance of the border bridges. They hope that this agreement prepared can be a model for other border bridges. The goal is to eliminate border bridges from being on two separate bridge inventories and from inspected and posted by agencies on both sides of the border. Guidance may follow soon.

Item #10

Next Meeting Date. The next committee meeting will be held on Friday, August 14, 2015 at 9:00am in INDOT N642 conference room.